



CITY COLLEGE NEWS

JANUARY 1995

GEORGE BROWN COLLEGE

VOLUME 12, NO. 5



Bye bye ballet – Dance will be a thing of the past at St. James Campus after the first floor of the main campus building is renovated this summer. The big, bright studios occupy prime space along King Street East that will probably be made into a student services mall.

Student centre is part of St. James 1995 renovation

IT'S BYE BYE POINTE SHOES and printing presses, hello plenty of student services, occasional pints and perhaps even plants.

That's what will be happening to the ground floor of the main St. James Campus building over the coming year thanks to a recently announced \$1.7 million government renovation grant.

Using the grant plus \$700,000 in student contributions and \$100,000 from the college itself – \$2.5 million in all – the ground floor of 200 King St. E. will be transformed. Dance studios and printing labs will be moved. Dark, narrow hallways will be made broader and brighter. Student services will be consolidated in an attractive "mall", and a student centre will be created to give students a pleasant place to relax.

Work on the 28,000 square foot project is expected to start after full-time, post-secondary classes end this spring and be substantially completed by the start of classes in September, 1995.

While architects and college staff haven't finalized details about the basic design or look of the renovated areas they're considering these ideas:

- Huge skylights from the second floor point to bring natural light into a central courtyard that could have plants and comfortable places to sit. They're even thinking of cut-

ting a hole in the floor to allow sunlight to brighten the cavern-like area in front of the basement cafeteria.

- A new, larger main entrance to the building on King Street East, and a bigger entrance on Adelaide Street East in the current location of the bookstore.

- Wide hallways running the width and length of the building, dividing it into quarters.

The east side of the building, housing the library, international centre and registration office, won't be touched by the renovation – but the west side will be dramatically changed.

The northwest corner of the floor, currently a number of printing labs, has been earmarked as the location for the \$700,000 student centre which would contain a large area which could be used for social gatherings, entertainment and pubs as well as a lounge and study area with comfortable seating.

Student Association president Tim Kemp says the student centre could also contain offices, meeting rooms, a coffee shop and other food services, a convenience store and a photocopy shop. The large pub/lounge area would take up about 2,600 square feet of the 9,100 square foot student centre

Continued on page 2

College winter storm warning: We will stay open (except in the worst weather)

By Neil McGillivray

Leslie Fowler loves staying home on stormy winter days when snow and ice blanket the city – making travel an arduous

business and forcing many schools to cancel classes.

"It's like a special holiday," says the first year Child and Youth Worker student.

Well, Leslie, those special holiday's may be few and far between while you're a college student.

George Brown has adopted a policy that means the college will only very rarely cancel classes or close completely because of bad weather.

Barring "very extreme" circumstances such as police warnings to stay home or declared states of emergency, classes and all services will continue as scheduled – says Martin Kerman, executive director of campus operations.

It's Kerman's job to monitor weather forecasts, starting when he wakes up at about 4 a.m., and decide if the college should stay open or if classes should be cancelled on stormy days.

"It's a judgement call on my part," says Kerman. "I'd only be closing the college if it was unreasonable for people to come in."

Kerman's rare decision to close or cancel classes will be relayed to a number of radio

stations in Metro (See Open or closed? on this page) and onto all college voice-mail boxes by 6 a.m. of the morning in question. He then has until 3 p.m. to

it: Unlike suburban colleges and school boards which rely on road transportation, George Brown's campuses are located at the centre of a city that's well served by

public transportation that continues running in virtually all kinds of weather. GO trains, subways, streetcars and buses may be delayed because of bad weather, but they keep on running. Given that, it's unfair for people who do struggle through bad weather to get to class to find that class cancelled, he says.

"We have to be operational for the people who do make the effort to come in," he says.

One staff member agrees: "We owe it to our students to be there when classes are scheduled and if students know that classes are going ahead they'll show up too."

Community Services student Joyce McMillan – who faces a 90-minute car and GO train commute from Hamilton to get to class – is less enthusiastic about the policy of staying open in storms.

"It would be nice if (the college) were closed so that you don't have to risk your life to come to class," she says.

George Brown doesn't intend to put anyone's health or safety at risk with its storm policy, and it will monitor closing decisions by

other downtown educational institutions like the University of Toronto and Ryerson, says Kerman.

Open or closed?

Here's how to find out

You've heard ominous sounding weather reports all evening. You wake up and can barely see the street because of the blowing snow. Here's how to find out if classes are cancelled at George Brown, or if the college is completely closed because of bad weather or other emergencies.

Listen to the radio: George Brown will let the following radio stations know if it is closing or cancelling day classes by 6 a.m. of the day in question. It will also let these radio stations know if evening classes are cancelled by 3 p.m.

CBC-AM 740	CHUM-FM
CKFM/MIX 99.9	CFRB 1010
CHFI-FM	680 News
CFNY	Q107

Call the college: To find out if classes are running,

- 1) Call (416) 867-2900 (or toll-free 1-800-265-2002) from a touch-tone phone;
- 2) Enter voice mailbox number 3905.

A message about classes and college closing will be updated as needed in this voice mailbox every day by 6 a.m. and 3 p.m. (Note: A decision about cancellation of evening classes will be made by 3 p.m. Information about cancellation of particular classes is generally not available.)

If you don't have access to a touch-tone phone, staff at the following numbers will know if classes are cancelled or if the college is closed

Switchboard 867-2000
(or toll-free 1-800-265-2002)
Open: Weekdays 7:30 a.m. to 5 p.m.
(4:30 p.m. on Fridays)

Enquiry Centre 867-2464
(or toll-free 1-800-263-8995)
Open: Weekdays 8:30 a.m. to 6:30 p.m.
(4:30 p.m. on Fridays)

decide if evening classes will be cancelled – when radio stations and staff will be informed again. Why take such a defiant stance on storms?

This is how Kerman explains

Continued on page 2

HEARD IN THE HALLS

How can the quality of education be improved?



"I'm not sure of colleges in general, but this college is excellent. I've been to another college and my experiences can't even be compared...just the way they treated the students. Here after the first or second week, all the teachers know you by name. It's not like 'Oh, you,' or 'Oh yeah, you're in one of my classes. What's your name again?' Here they treat you like people, they don't treat you like a number."

Laura Pellico
Child and Youth Worker
student
St. James



"I think a big concern for people on campus is the cutbacks in education. Because of budget cutbacks we've had to reduce hours. I know in our particular program we've cut five or six hours off the overall program and it seems to be a trend—a disturbing trend. I think that should be addressed."

Bill Fitzpatrick
Technician
Retail Meat Cutting
Hospitality



"They should give students more opportunity to learn. With all the hikes in tuition and the cuts in hours, there isn't enough time to learn anything so they're basically just pushing you through the system. There should be more class hours and detail in what is being taught."

Donovan Campbell
Culinary Management
student
St. James



"They spend so much money each day (per student) on supplies and paying teachers and things like that, and I thought, for a program like mine...the money could go straight to you to learn at home and you just do it yourself."

Rob Valitao
General Carpenter
apprentice
Casa Loma



CHOPSTICKS 101. English as a Second Language students showed off their cuisines, costumes—and ways of eating—at Christmas Caravan held in late December at Kensington Campus. This is the last Caravan at Kensington—the Language Training Department is slated to move to Casa Loma Campus by the end of March, 1995.

St. James renovations

Continued from page 1.

and hold about 230 people.

The student centre is being financed by student fees collected from all full-time and most continuing education students over the last few years. Kemp expects the operation of the centre to be subsidized by students after it opens in the fall of 1995.

"Eventually it'll be a break-even situation," he says.

A student centre is being planned for Casa Loma Campus but no date has been set for construction. It is likely to be built as part of a larger redevelopment of the campus that is dependent on government financing.

Construction of the St. James student centre means moving several large rooms filled with printing presses and bindery equipment to what may be smaller quarters in another part of the building.

The southwest quarter of the building—facing high traffic King Street East—would be changed from dance studios and printing labs to a mall area that offers "one-stop shopping" for student services such as counselling and financial aid, according to Corporate Services and Student Affairs vice-president Frank Sorochinsky.

Student Affairs staff (See News Shorts on page 3 for a story about this new name) are currently divided in small offices on different floors in the building.

The new space will be more welcoming and will allow students to get all the help they need more quickly without having to wander around the building, says Student Affairs Director Susan Stylianous.

Consolidating student services means closing dance studios that are currently being used for rehearsal space and classes by the School of Classical and Contemporary Dance and Ballet Jorgen, an independent dance company.

The School is a partnership between Ballet Jorgen and the college that was created after George Brown's School of Dance closed three years ago. New studio space for the School and Ballet Jorgen is currently being sought, says Sorochinsky.

The main floor of St. James has been substantially altered twice in the last five years.

It was part of a \$1-million renovation of the campus in 1989 that attempted to consolidate student services and create an attractive reception area at the front of the building. The central and rear portions of the floor as changed in the summer of 1993 as part of the first phase of the college's campus renewal program.

Construction this summer will temporarily restrict access to certain entrances and areas of the building, but the college will do all it can to minimize disruption of classes and services this summer, Sorochinsky says.

Winter storm warning

Continued from page 1.

Students and staff should prepare travel plans in advance for stormy days—maybe choosing public transportation instead of driving—and leave themselves extra travelling time, Kerman says.

Another staff member says that in the past George Brown has delayed making decisions about closing on stormy days until very late in the afternoon

—in some cases long after the University of Toronto has closed—causing anxiety for staff and students, as well as some long trips home.

"It's taken me six hours to get home," she says.

Many staff believe the college delays making closing decisions because shutting down too early would jeopardize government funding for that day, the staff member says.

The college would indeed lose funding for some retrain-

ing and apprenticeship programs—for which the college is paid for each day of training—if it closed too often, confirms Kerman, but occasional closing because of extreme weather will not affect funding, he says.

Even if classes are cancelled all employees are expected to come to work anyway but "punctuality considerations will be waived," according to a recent memo from president John Rankin.

BOUQUETS OR BRICKBATS

Give City College News
a call on its new
24-hour comment line



Do you have an opinion about George Brown or college that you'd like to share with our readers? Give us a call at 867-2279 and leave a message up to five minutes in length. We'll transcribe your call and publish it in the next issue of City College News as a letter. Don't forget to add (and spell) your name and your phone number.

PARAMOUNT



Paramount Parks is holding auditions to cast the upcoming 1995 show season at Paramount Canada's Wonderland!

1995 will feature contemporary dance and music revues, costume character shows, variety performers and a comedy/improvisational actor program featuring popular *Star Trek*® aliens.

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(905) 832-7454

VAUGHAN, ONTARIO	TORONTO, ONTARIO
Saturday, February 4, 1995	Thursday, February 2, 1995
Sunday, February 5, 1995	Friday, February 3, 1995
Paramount Canada's Wonderland	University of Toronto
The Paramount Theatre	St. Vladimir's Institute
12:00-3:00 Technicians	620 Spadina Avenue
12:00 Variety Performers	12:00-3:00 Technicians
12:30 Singers, Actors	12:30 Variety Performers
2:30 Dancers	1:00 Singers, Actors
	3:00 Dancers

AUDITIONS



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AUDITIONS

DEADLINE FOR APPLICATION: FEBRUARY 15 TEL: (514) 842-7954 FAX: (514) 842-5661

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NEWS SHORTS

GLOBE COLUMNIST RICK SALUTIN TO DISCUSS CULTURE AS A COMMODITY AT SYMPOSIUM ON JAN. 20

Jobs and Mail columnist Rick Salutin is the keynote speaker at a George Brown-sponsored symposium on Jan. 20 that will discuss the question "Is culture a commodity?"

Known for his provocative, and at times controversial, views, Salutin's comments will be discussed by a panel including Niagara College president John Saso, novelist and journalist Cecil Foster, Bravo station manager Paul Gratton and Amy Thornton, president of the academic staff union local at George Brown. The free symposium will be held at St. Lawrence Hall (157 King St. E. at Jarvis) starting at 9:30 a.m. To register for the symposium call (416) 867-2543 or fax a note to Al Budzin at 867-2094.

COLLEGE TO HELP BUILD CITY OF THE FUTURE IN NEWMARKET

George Brown has joined a consortium of more than 50 institutions and businesses that will create the city of the future starting this year in a new housing development in Newmarket, a suburb north of Toronto.

Sharing their particular expertise, the members of Infocom plan to equip about 1,300 homes with the most advanced kind of information systems and electronics available that will allow people to take courses, consult doctors, hold video tele-conferences and do more usual domestic transactions like banking and ordering products from their homes. The way the people in the Newmarket project use the electronic gizmos will be monitored and the results used in the design of everything from computers, telephones and TVs to distance education courses from George Brown. "This project is really getting exciting," says Betty Power, the college's contact for the consortium. Other educational members of Infocom include York University, Ryerson and Seneca College. Other members include IBM, Apple, CITY-TV, Bell, SEGA and the governments of Ontario and Canada.

NO, NO, NOT THAT KIND OF STUDENT AFFAIRS...

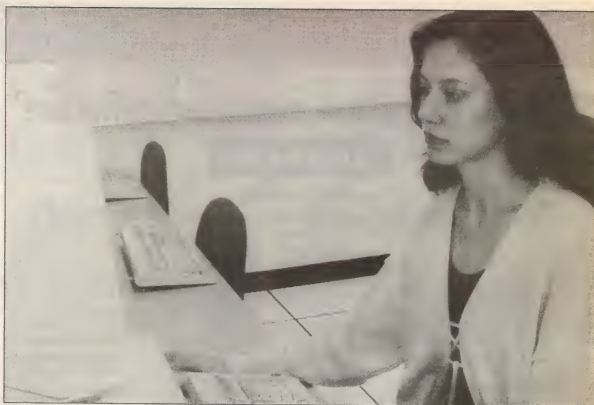
George Brown's Student Services Department has changed its name to Student Affairs. The name change signals a shift in focus from a service orientation to fuller partnership with academic divisions in meeting student needs, says director Susan Stylianos. "We felt (the new name) flagged a move towards student development," she says. Student Affairs has already taken the lead in student development with pilot projects involving student retention and assessment. "We want to be a partner in academic delivery," says Stylianos. The department, with 40 full-time staff, includes alumni, athletics and recreation, counselling and career centres, financial assistance, student life and the test centre. The name change was endorsed by department staff and will be gradually introduced on departmental material and signage, says Stylianos.

SEARCH BEGINS FOR NEW ACADEMIC VICE-PRESIDENT

The search is on to find a new academic vice-president for George Brown. The vice-president is responsible for all programs and courses at the college. The job, which pays up to \$93,000 a year, was posted internally just before Christmas. If there are no suitable candidates who are already full-time college staff, the competition will be opened to people from outside the college. The job posting says qualifications for the job are an "appropriate" academic background, a "proven record" in academic administration, excellent interpersonal and communication skills, and strong leadership abilities. The job was held until late last year by Patricia Groves, who left to become president of Canadore College. President John Rankin is currently acting academic vice-president.

SUPPORT STAFF UNION, COLLEGE DISPUTE PAY EQUITY FALLOUT

Ontario's pay equity legislation meant big raises for some George Brown support staff more than a year ago when the pay equity agreement between the Ontario Council of Regents and the Ontario Public Service Employees Union (OPSEU) came into effect. This past summer a George Brown committee reviewed all support staff positions, applying a new "gender-neutral" job evaluation system negotiated between the Council and OPSEU. As a result of the review, 65 support staff positions were reclassified into higher pay bands and 33 positions were reclassified into lower paybands. An additional 23 positions that had been "grandparented" because they were acknowledged to be in lower paybands before the new evaluation system were also addressed. Now the support staff union local - Ontario Public Service Employees Union Local 557 - has launched several grievances against George Brown and wants to reverse the downward reclassifications. It's also holding meetings with administrators to try to resolve the issue and conducting a letter-writing campaign to Minister of Education and Training Dave Cooke. Much of the dispute centres on the decision of the college to "red circle" staff whose classification has been reduced - which would result in a gradual move to the new pay level - as opposed to maintaining classifications for affected jobs while they are held by current staff (a process called "grandparenting") and changing their classifications when the position is vacant. Human Resources vice-president Sally Layton says the college proposed to grandparent staff who had been classified into lower paybands in a local agreement with the union. Local president Loreen Miskewich says the local rejected the proposed local agreement because it interfered with the right of support staff to grieve. Miskewich says most Ontario colleges maintained all staff in their former classifications under the new system. Layton says by reviewing classifications for all 540 support staff the college has eliminated inequities. The college has delayed implementing the downward classifications until March 1, 1995, to allow affected staff to meet with their supervisors and the Acting Manager of Classification to determine if the reclassified position descriptions accurately reflect their current jobs.



SECOND YEAR INFORMATION SYSTEMS student Catherine Mitchell loves using new powerful workstations in the recently opened \$400,000 business computer lab at St. James. She thinks the up-to-date machines and software will give her an edge in the job market. "I'll have an advantage," she says.

New computer lab offers the best bytes in Canada

GEORGE BROWN HAS opened the most up-to-date business microcomputer lab in Canada.

It spent more than \$400,000 over the last few months installing a roomful of powerful new desktop computers that run the latest business software programs.

The new lab at St. James Campus is used every week by hundreds of Faculty of Business students, but it brings special joy to the hearts of those studying information systems.

Information systems students are learning how to design, customize and fix the computer programs that businesses use to manage their operations. It's a highly competitive, knowledge-based industry where people must keep up with the break-neck changes in the computer industry - or start to lose work.

The 56 new workstations and software in the lab allows students to become well-versed in the technology and programs that employers will expect them to know when they enter the frenetic job market in the coming months.

"I'll have an advantage," frankly admits second-year Information Systems student Catherine Mitchell about her job prospects after graduation in May.

Information Systems program co-ordinator Rod Campeanu says the design of the lab - powerful 486 microcomputers linked to a central larger multi-user computer - mimics the systems that many businesses are adopting now.

"This is the way the industry is going," he says.

One corner of the lab may also hold the future of computer programming, according to Campeanu.

Five of the workstations in this area are fitted with multi-media equipment - CD-ROM drives, special speakers and enhanced audio capability - that allow students to work with high resolution graphics, sound and video.

In the future people will be doing more listening, looking and talking with computers and less reading and typing, says Campeanu.

"Computers will slowly become more user friendly," he says.

To match the advanced state of the lab, an extra year is being added to the current two-year full-time Information Systems program so students can develop the programming speed they need.

Speed is essential as graduates from the Information Systems program are most likely to find work helping small and medium-sized businesses meet their software needs in a fast, cost-effective way, says Campeanu.

The new computers and software replaced a decade-old IBM mainframe.

Given the rate of change in the computer industry the new lab will provide students with optimal training for the next two to three years with regular upgrades in software, Campeanu says.

The workstations are desktop

Intel 80486 DX2 units running at 66 megahertz with 16 megabytes of RAM and 425 megabytes of hard disk storage. They currently have DOS 6.22/Windows 3.11 operating systems. They are part of a larger network including a IBM RISC System 6000 Model 41T Oracle database server, an IBM Novell business application server and two AST general application servers, as well as two high speed line printers and one high speed network laser printer.

Students in the program learn programming languages C, C++, Microfocus Cobol and SQL that allow them to work in Unix, DOS/Windows and OS/2 systems. They learn to use Oracle, DB2 and Microsoft Access Databases as well as PowerBuilder, Oracle Forms, Visual Basic, Visual C++ and Visible Analyst Workbench development tools.

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the **BOOK store**

George Brown College Bookstores
Cass Lorna & St. James Campus Locations

'Students feel course evaluation ineffective'

By Tim Kemp,

President of the George Brown Student Association

A letter crossed my desk the other day which read:

"Dear Sir:

"While the administration recognizes the need to get feedback from students on the effectiveness of their individual teachers, the current approach with the Student Evaluation Form requires some fine tuning.

"The evaluation forms handed out by teachers need a number code for each specific instructor, a record kept of the number of evaluation forms handed out by the instructor and a count kept of the number returned. The evaluation forms should be dropped into a big box in the main lobby and not have to be returned to the instructor.

"The current system hampers students' readiness to give accurate and appropriate feedback. A system without accountability is no system at all."

COMMENT

(Name of student withheld)

What this letter told me is what has been suspected all along. Many students feel that the course evaluation process is ineffective. The current system provides no control or feeling of value for the student.

The current procedure for student evaluation of courses is:

"During the first day of the course, college accountability to students for curriculum and its delivery is explained, and the process whereby their input is sought outlined for the students.

– Student evaluation of teaching and courses occurs once every semester using the Student Feedback Form and the Student Course Evaluation Form at an appropriate time after the mid-point of the course.



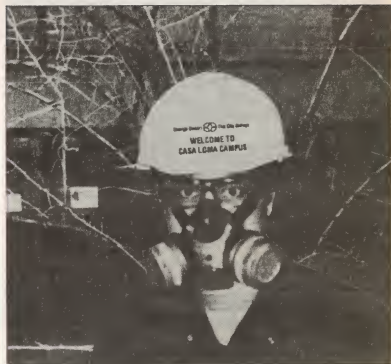
– The professor has the option of adding additional relevant items to each form in the empty spaces provided.

– The class representative or designate hands out the student evaluation forms and computer sheets. If the students need clarification about any item on the forms, the professor should offer an explanation, and then leave the room while the students are completing

the instruments. The faculty member during this time fills out the student evaluation instrument(s) on him/herself for later comparison with the students' feedback.

– The student evaluation forms are collected by the student representative or designate, placed in an envelope and returned to the faculty member

Continued on page 7



Smoking at Casa Loma

To the Editor:

I inhaled – then approached the front doors to Casa Loma Campus. I was sure I was approaching the much-heralded doors as I had consulted a map. However, I couldn't see them for the cigarette smoke, so thick and heavy it blurred my

vision, scorched my eyes and caused them to water like a sprinkler gone berserk. I thought the worst had come, but I was in for more than I had bargained.

I stopped walking (BIG mistake) to try and recover my vision (so as not to walk into yet another burning ember perched upon yet another painted nail for the second time in one week). Then I breathed in. Well, I didn't really mean to breathe in, but diaphragms doing what they do and lungs doing what they do caused the surrounding atmosphere – what's supposed to be air – to be sucked into my lungs. HA! The noxious fumes that were rushing down my gullet caused me to have a flashback. I thought of my dear departed friend of WW I vintage, who was chlorine-gassed in the trenches. I saw and heard him gasp and wheeze to a horrific end. As I was now suffering from oxygen deprivation, I could only imagine how he felt.

Does the school administration really believe, because hundreds of students stand six inches to 20 feet away from their heraled doors, that they are protecting the lives, lungs and rights of thousands of non-smoking students? NOT!!! As soon as I walk up the stairs from the cafeteria, I smell cigarette smoke seeping along the floors like an anaconda. Silent and thoroughly deadly.

Because I have business and responsibilities in the main building, I must endure this gauntlet several times each week. It makes me sad and frustrated that the prevailing powers seem so meek and casual about enforcing their mandate: To serve the will of the

majority of students.

If you want to kill yourself (which you slowly are) then kindly do so at a respectful distance – like Mars or Jupiter.

School administrators – I dare you to take a walk in front of Casa

Loma's front doors with your eyes wide open and breathe

LETTERS

deeply. Then ask yourself, "Why are all the non-smokers exposed to this every day? Why are all the day care children exposed to this every day?" One has to question how well jobs Ontario researched this \$1.7-million facility.

Please ask the smokers to take their smelly butts to the street so the rest of us can approach these doors and honestly proclaim: "I didn't inhale!"

Name withheld on request
Technology student
Casa Loma

CITY COLLEGE NEWS

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GEORGE BROWN
THE CITY COLLEGE

Date rape is a common campus crime

By Lois Athanasiu

The word "rape" conjures up an image of a knife-wielding stranger dragging a woman off into the bushes to commit a violent act. In reality, most rapes are committed by acquaintances and involve coercion rather than outright violence.

How prevalent is sexual assault on campuses? (Sexual assault is any unwanted act of a sexual nature. It can range from unwanted touching and fondling to attempted or actual forced sexual intercourse – rape.) Studies indicate that between one in six to one in eight women will be sexually assaulted while attending

college or university. These figures are probably very conservative because date or acquaintance rape is the most under-reported form of sexual assault. Less than one per cent of all women report date rape to the authorities for reasons such as fear and shame and concern about being revictimized by the police and courts.

According to a 1988 survey of American college and university students, one in four women surveyed were victims of rape and one in 12 of the male students surveyed had committed rape or attempted rape. Yet 84 per cent of the men who had committed rape said that what they did was

definitely not rape. Partly because of the extreme circumstance that most people associate with rape, even women whose experience meets the legal definition of rape often do not identify themselves as rape victims. They still suffer the effects, such as long-term fear and depression. Of sexually assaulted women, 30 per cent contemplate suicide and one sixth suffer a nervous breakdown.

Why do men not recognize when they are committing sexual assault? Aggression toward women has become normalized. In general men have been socialized to be dominant in their relationships with women. In the sexual sphere, many men believe and act on the myth that women always resist sex and want to be convinced. "No" is interpreted as playing hard to get. Also, a woman communicates "no" in a variety of verbal and non-verbal ways, such as pushing her partner away, saying "I'm not ready" or "I want to go home." If a woman communicates "no" in any way, and the man continues to use arguments and pressures her to give in, he is committing sexual assault. The fact that she submits without a struggle does not mean she has consented. She may be, for example, reacting to the fear of violence if she doesn't cooperate. He needs to learn to listen to his partner and respect her choices.

Lois Athanasiu is a counsellor at St. James Campus. George Brown's Counselling Offices offer counselling and specialist referrals to students on a wide range of personal, college related and health issues.

HERE'S HOW TO HAVE YOUR SAY!

City College News wants you to have your say! If you're concerned about a topic, event or issue that you think will be of interest to students and staff at George Brown – put it down on paper. Write a letter or an article, or just suggest a story idea to us. Here's how you do it.

1. Make sure your submission is legible (it can be typed or handwritten), keeps to the point and is brief. If it's too long we may edit it for length as well as for grammar and spelling.

2. Sign your submission and include your full name, telephone number, address and some indication of your affiliation with the college (i.e., course name, job, etc.).

3. You may request that your name be withheld from publication. We will respect your request if you provide us with a reason.

4. We welcome anonymous story suggestions, news tips or other material; however, as in all cases above, City College News staff and its editorial board will make decisions about what will be published.

5. Keep a copy of what you send to us. We will not return unsolicited material, including photographs, unless we are provided with a stamped, self-addressed envelope.

6. Drop off your submission in a sealed envelope at the mail slot in the information centre in the front lobby of 200 King St. E. at St. James Campus or the third floor entrance of 180 Kendal Ave. at Casa Loma, or send it by Canada Post or internal college mail to:

Editor, City College News, Marketing Services Department, 200 King St. E., Room 542E, George Brown College, Toronto, Ont. M5A 3W8 or fax it to (416) 867-2303.

The deadline for submissions and letters for our February 1995 issue is Wednesday January 17.

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CAMP

counsellor

Playwright Sky Gilbert explores "a gay sense of humour"

By Peter Vamos

A man in a feather head dress and grotesque theatre make-up bounds across a stage in a sequin dress and starts lip-synching one of the gems of the disco era of the late 1970s: "I like the nightlife I like to boogie/On the disco."

Could this be a feverish dream too bizarre to describe to your analyst? No, it's a scene from the film *Priscilla Queen of the Desert* and a prime example of what is known as camp.

Originally an Australian term for a low saloon, camp parodies and embraces the flamboyance and excesses of modern society by celebrating certain types of film, art and styles. "The essence of camp is its love of the unnatural: of artifice and exaggeration," writes Susan Sontag in a 1964 essay that popularized the term.

In camp, content is meaningless. Camp views the world "not in terms of merits, but in terms of style," Sontag writes.

But where once camp sensibility was completely apolitical and disengaged from content, to many members of the gay community today it acts as an expression of victimization in a white, male-dominated, heterosexual society.

"It's basically a gay sense of humor," says Toronto playwright Sky Gilbert who is scheduled to teach a George Brown continuing education course called Camp and the Gay Sensibility starting this month.

"It's a defence against oppression and a way of dealing with the shame and the kind of negative feelings that a lot of gay men and lesbians have about themselves because they're considered second class citizens. So one of the best defenses is humour."

Because it represents an outlook on life – a sensibility – the term camp is not easily defined. Dictionary definitions are too narrow to do the concept justice.

Camp can be a drag queen wearing the kind of flamboyant, horrifying make-up styles that were once popular with film actresses in the 1940s. Camp can be art forms that express victimization and oppression. Or it can be a poodle-shaped lamp base or a chaise lounge.

"It's decorating your bedroom like the one they had in *I Love Lucy*," says Alan Vernon, entertainment editor at *Xtra*, Toronto's gay community newspaper.

Camp is also a reflection of the way straight society looks at gays, says

Gilbert. Many members of society look at gays and can't understand

what they're all about.

"Basically what camp does is look at straight culture with exactly the same befuddlement; with exactly the same lack of understanding."

It is for this reason camp views many old movies and early television programs – and in fact any form of popular culture which emphasize stereotypical gender roles – with a sense of irony.

Films are one of the most important forms of camp, Gilbert says, especially those such as *Mildred Pierce*, which portray women as victims, made in the so-called Golden Age of Hollywood.

Women in these films "were allowed to have certain vulnerabilities, certain emotions which men were not allowed to have," he says. "So for gay men especially, it's a release to laugh at the extravagance of these emotions."

"Certainly in that period they were revelling in victimhood...and in a very weird way gay men feel like victims. They want to be able to express that and these women in these movies do express that."

The Wizard of Oz is classic camp and the film's star, Judy Garland, is one of its greatest icons.

"I think the thing about *The Wizard of Oz* that appeals to queers in general when it comes to Judy Garland, is that we know the truth," says Gilbert. "The

Pollyanna vision of that movie is completely belied by Judy Garland's actual existence."

Garland was a tragic figure, whose career was punctuated by alcohol and drug addiction and whose death was the final chapter in a life-long struggle as Hollywood's victim. "She also has a real combination of toughness and vulnerability," Gilbert says. "At times she seemed too butch to be a woman. She had a wicked sense of humor, she was very risqué, yet she was also able to reveal herself and do that victim thing."

Sitting in a downtown delicatessen, Gilbert, with shaved head, four-day beard and black construction boots, looks more like a roughneck from an oil rig than someone ready to teach on gay sensibilities.

"I'm actually a fairly controversial figure in the gay community," the 41-year-old says. Not everyone agrees with his ideas or the way he conducts his business, but that seems to suit him just fine. He has taken time off from



Joan Crawford



Divine

What's Camp?

"Not only is there a camp vision, a camp way of looking at things. Camp is as well a quality discoverable in objects and the behavior of persons. There are campy movies, clothes, furniture, popular songs, novels, people, buildings..."

— Susan Sontag, from Notes on "Camp"

- Judy Garland
- Tupperware
- Cross Dressing
- Gina Lollobrigida
- John Waters films
- Divine
- Rue Paul
- The National Enquirer
- Barbra Streisand
- Cocker Spaniel lamp with orange velvet lampshade
- Horn rimmed glasses with diamond insets
- The Brady Bunch
- Swan Lake
- Lava lamps
- Beehive hairdos
- Leopard skin boots, or anything else leopard skin
- TV dinners
- Spam
- Bowling shirts
- I Love Lucy
- Bean bag chairs
- All types of inflatable furniture
- Blue eye shadow
- Rockabilly
- Low riders
- Bewitched
- Jetsons
- Hula dancing
- Vinyl!

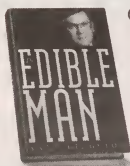
Toronto playwright Sky Gilbert sees the political dimension of camp culture.



Continued on page 7



Introducing Dave Nichol's Personal Selection Draft Beers.



Dear Dave,

Thank you again.

We were honoured the first time you chose Lakeport Brewery. So when you chose to stay with us for your exciting new Dave Nichols' Personal Selection draft beers, we were ecstatic! As you demanded, we're using a special recipe that includes Saaz hops from the Czech Republic. We're aging them naturally and 50% longer. And they'll be non-pasteurized, with absolutely no preservatives. And I want to publicly promise you that, this time, we'll keep up with its demand.

Thanks again, Dave.

Bill Sharpe

Bill Sharpe, President, CEO
Lakeport Brewing Corporation

At your local beer store now.

Course evaluation

Continued from page 4

who then summarizes the results.

- It is recommended that timely discussion with the students about the results take place. The discussion serves to clarify the feedback and identify possible changes in the course and/or instruction."

(The above excerpt is from the document, *Faculty Performance Planning for Excellence*, page six.)

This is the current procedure and, as it is up for review, I would like to point out some concerns that I have:

- Students are consistently not informed of college accountability in regards to program content and delivery, nor of their opportunity for input.
- Students are rarely given the opportunity to complete the evaluations, and in fact many are not even aware the process exists.
- On many occasions students feel intimidated by instructors as they usually do not leave the room during the time the forms are being filled out.
- Students feel that in having the instructors control the forms, they may be identified and have retributive action taken against them.
- Instructors collect and keep

forms without any obligation to share the results.

- Students are rarely informed of the evaluation results.

I would also like to suggest what could be done to improve the system.

- Make it mandatory that all students are given outlines at the beginning of each course. Faculty must be made accountable for the distribution of the course outlines by including it in their job descriptions. Students should also have the right to appeal grades for courses in which outlines were not given.
- All students must be given the opportunity to complete course evaluations.
- An independent third party must control the process.
- Evaluations must be done at random times throughout the second half of the semester.
- Forms must be tabulated by an independent third party and the results published in a public document (i.e. student newspaper)

Students demand the right to provide input into their education. They are the customers of our institution and if not given quality, relevant programs, they will go elsewhere.



ST. JAMES LIBRARY TECHNICIAN Elsa Hokan shows Grade 9 West Toronto Collegiate student Jason Durham how to use a computer. Durham was one of several dozen Grade 9 students to visit the college on Nov. 30 as part of the city-wide Take Our Kids to Work day.

Grade 9 students explore careers at college

By Paul Oliveira

George Brown has opened the minds of some Grade 9 students to their futures.

The students came to the college on Nov. 30 as part of the city-wide Take Our Kids to Work career day.

The 14- and 15-year-olds, most from West Toronto Collegiate, spent the day watch-

ing staff members and students as they went about their normal tasks.

What they saw opened their eyes to new careers.

Student Jason Durham spent a morning with library technician Elsa Hokan in the computer lab of the St. James Resource Centre — where he learned about computer networks.

"I wanted to be a businessperson. I never had experience on computers before. Thanks to Elsa I have my future career."

Some staff brought their own children to work, including hos-

pitality teacher Bjorn Rasmussen, who showed his 14-year-old son Scott how he teaches people to work in restaurants and hotels.

West Toronto teacher Irene Bilaniuk says the day at George Brown should help the students get a better idea of the range of jobs they could do.

Most students are quite unfocused about careers and work, she says.

Note: The author is a Grade 9 student at West Toronto Collegiate who spent Nov. 30 with City College News editor Neil McGillivray.

Camp counsellor

Continued from page 5

rehearsing his new play, *More Divine*, produced by Buddies in Bad Times Theatre, a performance company which he founded.

As an artist, Gilbert decided to teach the George Brown course in camp because it's the perfect meeting point between gay culture and art.

Camp encompasses forms of art which hold dear the themes of victimization or play on gender roles, he says. The poetry of Dorothy Parker, much of which

dealt with her being abused by men, is classic camp. The works of Oscar Wilde are also considered camp because of the way he muddled the lines between female and male characters and was critical of straight society.

Camp gender roles are best defined through post-World War II America and the concept of the nuclear family.

For this reason, much of the furniture and decorating styles that were being created in the 1940s and '50s for these families

— commonly referred to today as kitch — is considered very camp.

"It's like collecting artifacts," Gilbert says. "We look at fantasies of middle class houses and living rooms, with two kids and the sparseness and the silliness of what was considered modern and comfortable in the '50s and you just have to laugh."

"It was all built on the fantasy of the nuclear family which we now realize, with incest and all these other problems, was kind of a fantasy."

Note: For more information on this or any other arts courses, call (416) 867-2092.

STAFF CHANGES

The Human Resources Department reports the following staff changes:

New faculty appointments are **Joseph Defancesco** to Fashion Technology at Casa Loma, **Brian Floody** and **Thomas Gibson** to Hospitality, **Leslie French** to the Theatre School, **Mary Gabel**, **Sandra Gunning** and **Deborah Headly** to Community Services at St. James, **Ludvik Jakopin** and **Geoff Linton** to Business and **Gail Pahwa** to Health Sciences at St. James.

New support staff appointments are **Edward Howitt** the Computer Aided Learning Centre, **Michele Lee** to the Faculty of Math and English at St. James, **Theresa Martinez** to the Registrar's Office at 500

MacPherson, **Michel Paquette** to the Registrar's Office, **Delores Santos** to Human Resources, **Sharon Stafford** to the Deaf Education Centre and **Emily Turco** to Waterpark Place Child Care Centre.

Internal transfers include: **Bob Banks**, who moves from Liberal Arts and Science to Math and Science at St. James, **Al Budzin**, who moves from English and Math to be chair of Math and Science at St. James, **John Kitchener**, from Planning for Employment to the School of Labour, **Anita Mandrus** from the Registrar's Office to the Test Centre, **Cindy Nevins**, who moves from the Deaf Education Centre to the Faculty of Community Services at Nightingale, and **Geurt van de Kraats** from

Architectural to Electrical Technology.

Name changes include **Silvana Alescio**, who is now **Silvana Gregoris** and **Darryl Couchie** is now **Darrell Couchie**.

Retiring from the college are **Roy Agard** from Plant Operations after 25 years, **Tommy Crean** after 25 years, **Raymond Danley** after 15 years, **Patricia Janes** after 20 years, and **Melvin Pineo** after 25 years.

Leaving the college are: **Christopher Aaltonen**, **Yvonne Anderson**, **Michael Clement**, **Atul Chadha**, **Rosalind Cooke**, **Giovanni De Simone**, **Wendy Komiotis**, **Myriam Mora**, **Dana Peebles**, **Henry Whalen** and **Jeeranie Zafar**.

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JANUARY EVENTS

2 The School of Hospitality presents **Italian Month at Siegfried's**. Until Jan. 20, students in the post-graduate Italian program will be working in the kitchen creating specialty Italian dishes. For more information, call 867-2260.

Student Emergency Fund Raffle tickets go on sale. First prize is \$1,000 or a year's tuition and books. Students will be selling tickets around campus. Tickets are also available in Student Association offices or SAC Shack. For more information or anyone wanting to sell tickets, call 867-2674.

Registration begins for **Lunchtime Intramural Floor Hockey, Blind Volleyball and Badminton** (non-contact). For more information, call your Campus Athletics department at 944-4627 (Casa Loma) or 867-2176 (St. James). Registration ends Jan. 13.

The **George Brown Committee for Lesbians, Gays and Bisexuals** will be holding meetings throughout the year. For information about the committee and dates, times and locations of meetings, call 867-2373.

3 **Finance and Property Committee** of the Board of Governors meeting, 500 MacPherson Ave. boardroom, 12:30 p.m.

4 **Women's indoor soccer**, first practice in the Casa Loma gym from 4-6 p.m. For more information about registration, call your Campus Athletics department at 944-4627 (Casa Loma) or 867-2176 (St. James).

Practices begin for **Women's Indoor Soccer**, 4-6 p.m. in the Casa Loma gym.

Practices begin for **Men's Indoor Soccer**, 6-8 p.m. in the Casa Loma gym.

Student Association meeting at St. James, 5 p.m. Students are all welcome to attend. For more information, call 867-2454.

Religious holiday: **Ghambar Maidyarem** ends, Zoroastrianism

5 **Employment Equity Consultation Focus Group** to bring participants up to date on the new employment equity legislation and where the college is in the process of developing its own employment equity plan. From 10 a.m. to noon in the boardroom, 500 MacPherson. For information call 944-4442

6 **Men's Varsity Basketball Tournament**, Starts at 3 p.m. and ends Sat. Jan. 7 at 10 p.m. in the St. James gym. For more information call your Campus Athletics department at 944-4627 (Casa Loma) or 867-2176 (St. James). Religious holiday: **Epiphany**, Christianity (Gregorian Calendar)

7 Religious holidays: **Julian Christmas**, Christianity
Birthday of Guru Gobind Singh, Sikhism

9 **Alpine Ski Team** practice, 6:30 p.m. at Glen Eden.
League play begins for **Lunchtime Intramural Floor Hockey, Blind Volleyball and Badminton** (non-contact). For more information call your Campus Athletics department at 944-4627 (Casa Loma) or 867-2176 (St. James).

10 **Board of Governors meeting** at 500 MacPherson in the board room, 5:30 p.m. All students and staff are welcome to attend.

11 **Staff workshop: Introduction to American Sign Language**. This three-month course, ending

Apr. 19, will teach the basics of how to communicate with deaf and hard-of-hearing students and staff. For more information or to register, call Linda Purser or the Staff Resource Centre 944-4661.

Men's Varsity Volleyball home game, Huskies vs. Durham at 6 p.m. in the St. James gym.

Men's Varsity Basketball home game, Huskies vs. Loyalist at 8 p.m. in the St. James gym.

12 **Staff workshop: Intermediate American Sign Language**. Learn how to communicate with deaf and hard-of-hearing students and staff. Ends Apr. 20. For more information or to register, call Linda Purser or the Staff Resource Centre 944-4661.

Camp Zu Pub, St. James 2-7 p.m. in the student lounge.

College Council meeting at 500 MacPherson in the boardroom, from 8:45 to 11 a.m. All are welcome to attend.

14 Religious holidays: **Makar Sankranti**, Hinduism;
Maghi, Sikhism

16 Religious holiday: **Nisf-Sha'ban**, Islam

17 **Hypnotist Dan Valkos** will be performing in the Casa Loma student lounge starting at noon. For more information call the Student Association at 867-2454.

18 **Student Forum with George Brown President John Rankin** at noon in the St. James campus student's lounge (north end of the cafeteria). For more information call 867-2454.

Employment Equity Consultation Focus Group to bring participants up to date on the new employment equity legislation and where the college is in the process of developing its own employment equity plan. From 6:30 to 8:30 p.m. in the boardroom, 500 MacPherson. For information call 944-4442.

Men's Alumni Basketball Tournament at 7 p.m. in the St. James gym.

19 **Camp Zu Pub**, St. James campus, 2-7 p.m. in the student lounge.
Religious Holiday: **Sultan**, Baha'i

20 **Symposium: Is Culture a Commodity?** featuring keynote speaker Globe and Mail columnist Rick Salutin, 9:30 a.m. to noon, St. Lawrence Hall (157 King St. E.). Free admission. To register call 867-2543.

Gala Italian dinner to raise money for Italian culinary students to complete their studies in Italy. Tickets are \$120, wine and entertainment included. For more information call 867-2239.

Men's Varsity Volleyball home game, Huskies vs. R.M.C. at 6 p.m. in the St. James gym.

Men's Varsity Basketball home game, Huskies vs. Algonquin at 8 p.m. in the St. James gym.

23 **"Talk Sex" with Sue Johanson** at noon in the St. James campus student lounge (north end of the cafeteria). For more information call 867-2454.

24 **Strategic Planning Committee** of the Board of Governors meeting, 500 MacPherson Ave. boardroom, 5:30 p.m.

25 **Academic and Student Affairs Committee** of the Board of Governors meeting, 500 MacPherson Ave. boardroom, 8:15 a.m.

26 **Camp Zu Pub**, St. James campus, 2-7 p.m. in the student lounge.

27 **Deadline for nominations of 1995/96 Student Association representatives**. Application available in the SA offices. For more information call 867-2454.

Men's Varsity Basketball home game, Huskies vs. Loyalist at 8 p.m. in the St. James gym.

28 **Women's Varsity Basketball** home game, Huskies vs. St. James Lawrence at 2 p.m. in the St. James gym.

31 **Finance and Property Committee** of the Board of Governors meeting, 500 MacPherson Ave. boardroom, 12:30 p.m.

Religious holiday: **Chinese/Vietnamese New Year**, Year of the Pig

FEBRUARY

1 **Women's Varsity Volleyball** home game, Huskies vs. Centennial at 6 p.m. in the St. James gym.

Women's Varsity Volleyball home game, Huskies vs. Lambton at 7 p.m. in the St. James gym.

2 **Camp Zu Pub**, St. James campus, 2-7 p.m. in the student lounge.



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ELECTIONS

DATES TO REMEMBER

JANUARY 9TH 1995 - ELECTION PACKAGES AVAILABLE IN THE STUDENT ASSOCIATION OFFICES, STUDENT LIFE OFFICE, COUNSELLING OFFICES AND STUDENT AFFAIRS.

JANUARY 27TH (12 NOON) 1995 - NOMINATIONS CLOSE

JANUARY 30TH 1995 - CAMPAIGNING BEGINS

FEBRUARY 17TH 1995 - CAMPAIGNING ENDS

FEBRUARY 16TH - ADVANCE POLL

FEBRUARY 21ST & 22ND 1995 - VOTING

FEBRUARY 23RD - ANNOUNCEMENT OF NEW STUDENT LEADERS

